

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00160 180652Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0160

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

1. THE UNEXPLAINED APPEARANCE IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS OF SCORES OF BUSES AND SEVERAL TV CAMERAS GENERATED SPECULATION THAT THE 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS MIGHT CONVENE IMMINENTLY.

2. ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE ACTIVITY MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT PRESS LIAISON CHIEF MA YU-CHEN REPLIED "THERE IS NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS NOW (ABOUT THE NPC BEING HELD). ANHWEI HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS PEOPLE'S CONGRESS". MA IMPLIED THAT THE NPC WOULD NOT BE CONVENED UNTIL AFTER THE SPRING FESTIVAL.

3. WE PRESUME THAT THE TIEN AN MEN ACTIVITY IS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE OF METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES OR TO ANOTHER CONFERENCE IN SESSION.

4. COMMENT: ASSUMING THAT MA YU-CHEN WAS CORRECT IN STATING THAT ANHWEI WAS THE LAST PROVINCE TO COMPLETE ITS
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PRE-NPC PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, SINKIANG CONVENED AN ADJOURNED ITS CONGRESS IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE. ONE IS TEMPTED TO SPECULATE THAT POLITBURO ALTERNATE SAIFUDIN, CONCURRENTLY THE FIRST PARTY SECRETARY IN SINKIANG, MAY BE UNDER A CLOUD.
WOODCOCK

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